

## Workshops

On **Sat, the 17th, at 11 PST/2 EST**, I'll be presenting a workshop for New Britain, Connecticut, Public Library on **Citizen Activism 101**. Although some of the content will be geared to the locale, the principles will be generic. On this calendar, scroll down on the event for the registration link: <https://www.nbpl.info/calendar.html>

Note: Name change for the Misinformation workshop - currently, "Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda" – now "Misinformation and Propaganda – Telling Truth from Fiction".

I also have a custom workshop scheduled for April but it will be closed to the public. I've been doing more custom workshops. Please contact me if you have an idea!

## Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts:

**Event: The Missing Constitutional Right** Mar. 20. 12-1 p.m. PST. Brennan Center. Virtual "The right to vote is one of the foundations of democracy, yet in the United States, it has never truly been available to all... Author Richard Hasen argues in his new book, [A Real Right to Vote](#), that a constitutional amendment would end the fight over the franchise. But could it be that simple?"

Register: [https://brennan.swoogo.com/missingright/begin?ref=EventsNewsletter012924&fbclid=IwAR0RIZRMITENp-o1PBtI99M0ywWjCi2iSD0T89BgMT-beX5YNITXzJo5y28&i=woFolbEB6XR0aWbwRbqCvKYO\\_k8CnBXw](https://brennan.swoogo.com/missingright/begin?ref=EventsNewsletter012924&fbclid=IwAR0RIZRMITENp-o1PBtI99M0ywWjCi2iSD0T89BgMT-beX5YNITXzJo5y28&i=woFolbEB6XR0aWbwRbqCvKYO_k8CnBXw)

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Catching on - **reporting on the "stakes, not the odds"**. This means focusing on the substance of candidates, not on the "horse race". Also, using a "citizens' agenda" - responding to what people want to know about candidates/elections. Both are important moves towards better, more responsible, reporting. Here is Vermont Public Radio's commitment:

**Vermont Public will cover the 2024 election by taking our cues from you**

[https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2024-01-29/vermont-public-will-cover-the-2024-election-by-taking-our-cues-from-you?fbclid=IwAR1Mg8fr\\_PuMYqv8U9lOCtKseNFdsT54sUpkjav6ZoPYJiDV1\\_xo-ObSq5E](https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2024-01-29/vermont-public-will-cover-the-2024-election-by-taking-our-cues-from-you?fbclid=IwAR1Mg8fr_PuMYqv8U9lOCtKseNFdsT54sUpkjav6ZoPYJiDV1_xo-ObSq5E)

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The **indictment from Special Prosecutor Jack Smith** for Donald Trump's actions in attempting to overturn the 2020 election. The indictment came out of a Grand Jury of regular folks who heard extensive testimony/evidence, as outlined in the indictment. Interestingly, a group got 83 people to split the indictment into sections and read the whole document!

The oral recitation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TW-HqGZggr8>

Written:

[https://www.justice.gov/storage/US\\_v\\_Trump\\_23\\_cr\\_257.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3YmOqSsTBNldFb6XHGEhQ1CvrlBu2iCMI4TE2xK57t1fHlBqctBd7e0is](https://www.justice.gov/storage/US_v_Trump_23_cr_257.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3YmOqSsTBNldFb6XHGEhQ1CvrlBu2iCMI4TE2xK57t1fHlBqctBd7e0is)

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Well, looks like we have our first instance of the use of AI to disrupt 2024 elections. Be careful folks.

**Fake Joe Biden robocall tells New Hampshire Democrats not to vote Tuesday**

[https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-election/fake-joe-biden-robocall-tells-new-hampshire-democrats-not-vote-tuesday-rcna134984?fbclid=IwAR0SPGbtSS4ww1LKsJ8k2KI8FcYpCYMiJBnMX1\\_SFb4ITx63FF6iFvJ2ErE](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-election/fake-joe-biden-robocall-tells-new-hampshire-democrats-not-vote-tuesday-rcna134984?fbclid=IwAR0SPGbtSS4ww1LKsJ8k2KI8FcYpCYMiJBnMX1_SFb4ITx63FF6iFvJ2ErE)

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**A really important fact about the Iowa caucus and the New Hampshire primary** that is sorely lacking in the media coverage is this... They are not "winner-take-all" contests. No one walks away with all the delegates those states send to the national conventions. Delegates are determined by a proportional system where the number of delegates a candidate gets is proportional to that person's results.

Candidate	%	Votes	Bound Delegates
 <b>Donald Trump</b> <i>Republican</i>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>167,303</b> <i>34,285 ahead</i>	<b>12</b>
<b>Nikki Haley</b> <i>Republican</i>	43.3%	133,018	9

Why is it important to know this? For three reasons, imo:

1. It's simply a more accurate way of describing the outcomes of these contests.
2. It can counter a narrative that tags one person as the "winner", as though no one else mattered.
3. We need to have a better appreciation for the concept of "proportional" representation. Whether it's for these contests, for state electoral vote counts [which for most states are not proportional, but that can be changed], or for our elected bodies in general [city/county/state legislatures, Congress] - proportional results better reflect the preferences of the population.

How often have you heard people complain that the two parties in Congress don't reflect their interests?

Simply put, there is no way that two parties can represent the range of concerns for 330 million people! This is why so many [up to a third, overall] of the voting public isn't affiliated with any party. Imagine if we had, say, 6 viable parties, although with differing policies. More people would find a political "home" with a proportional system and, more would get done, because coalitions would form around various issues, in order to pass legislation. The coalitions can shift depending on the issue.

More at <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036>

Ask your local library or community group to sponsor a workshop! Thanks.

**NEW Flyer** describing workshops: [https://static.s123-cdn-static-d.com/uploads/2516289/normal\\_65cbbf0327941.pdf](https://static.s123-cdn-static-d.com/uploads/2516289/normal_65cbbf0327941.pdf)